

A Day of Ancient Biomolecules

October 9, 2026

- 15:00 - 18:00** **IMBB International Symposium on Ancient DNA and Proteins**
Unfolding our history through ancient biomolecules
Moderator: [Nena Galanidou](#)
Professor of prehistoric archaeology, University of Crete
- 15:00 – 15:10** **Welcome**
- 15:10 – 15:50** [Eirini Skourtanioti](#)
Junior group leader, IMBB-FORTH, Heraklion
Ancient human genomics and the population history of the Aegean
- 15:50 - 16:30** [Mehmet Somel](#)
Professor, Middle East Technical University, Ankara
Ancient human genomics and the population history of Anatolia
- 16:30 – 17:10** [Katerina Douka](#)
Associate Professor, University of Vienna, Vienna
Paleoproteomics of hominin fossil record and radiocarbon dating
- 17:10 – 17:50** [Pontus Skoglund](#)
Senior group leader, the Francis Crick Institute, London
Host-pathogen ancient genomics and dog domestication
- 17:50 – 18:00** *Concluding remarks*
- 18:00 – 19:00** *Coffee and refreshments*
- 19:00 - 19:10** **2026 Kafatos Lecture**
Word of welcome
EMBL Head of Alumni Relations, [Mehrnoosh Rayner](#)
FORTH president, [Vassilis Charmandaris](#)
EMBL Council delegate and former IMBB Director, [Nektarios Tavernarakis](#)
- 19:10 - 19:15** **Introduction**
Head of EMBL Genome Biology, [Eileen Furlong](#)
- 19:15 - 19:45** 2026 Kafatos Lecture by Nobel Laureate [Svante Pääbo](#)
A Neanderthal Perspective on Human Origins and Health:
“How Ancient DNA is Revealing New Insights into Disease and Biology”
- 19:45 - 20:15** Q&A with [Svante Pääbo](#)
Moderated by EMBL Head of Science Education and Public Engagement [Briony Jackson](#)
- 20:15 -** *Food, drinks and music*
- All times local time